Christian Community

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HENRY KOCH ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION

Arndt, Retiring Head, Honored at Dinner

The Reverend Henry C. Koch, D. D., pastor of Concordia Church, Washington, D. C., and formerly executive secretary of the Commission on World Service, was elected chairman of the Commission on Christian Social Action at its winter meeting held at the Hotel Muehlebach, Kansas City, Missouri, January 30 and 31. The Reverend Walter S. Press, pastor of Bethlehem Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan, is the new vice-chairman; and Attorney Harold C. Kropf, of Orrville, Ohio, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Dr. Koch succeeds Dr. Elmer J. F. Arndt, professor of Historical Theology and Christian Ethics at Eden Theological Seminary, who retires from membership on the Commission after twenty-two years of service. At a testimonial dinner, held in Zion Church, Kansas City, Kansas, Dr. Arndt was presented with a citation, which reads as follows:

"In recognition of his service, for 22 years as a member of the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church since its formation in 1935, for over five years as secretary and for the past 16 years as chairman of the Commission, and before that as a member of the Commission on Christianity and Social Problems of the Evangelical Synod of North America, the members and staff of the Commission on Christian Social Action record their affectionate appreciation of his contribution to the Commission and to the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

"For his grasp of the essentials of Christian faith and theology in their bearing upon the life of society, for his perception of the major issues of our social order, for his counsel in developing a wise strategy and effective programs of action, and for his leadership in arousing the Church to its enlarging responsibilities under the changing circumstances of our critical times, we would express our deepest gratitude. Especially do we acknowledge our indebtedness for the service he rendered as Chairman and in effect as Executive without remuneration during the period of the Second World War when the Commission had no paid staff and the administration of the Evangelical and Reformed Church's ministry to conscientious objectors was added to his responsibilities for social interpretation and his vocational duties as a Teacher of Theology.

"We rejoice also in the contribution he made in stimulating the Evangelical and Reformed Church to inaugurate its program of relief, reconstruction, and world service, and in his interdenominational ministry both in this country and abroad.

"For these and his many other gifts, not least of which are a frankness in discussion and a friendship which has been unbroken by the diversities of opinion and conviction represented in our fellowship, we hereby assure him of our cordial good wishes as he relinquishes the responsibilities of membership on the Commission and our sincere prayers that his labors may continue to bear fruit."

Secretary Harold C. Kropf presents retiring chairman Elmer J. F. Arndt with citation for meritorious service

Atkisson Studio

A major item on the agenda of the meeting was the preparation of the Commission's annual report to the synods, which is incorporated in the "Blue Book" provided for all ministers and lay-delegates to the spring meetings. Because of its important recommendations and in order to make it available to more members of our congregations, we present this report in its entirety in this issue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. Special attention is called to the recommendations concerning the Middle East and to the resolution on Justice for the Indian American.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION, 1957

To the Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church:

Perplexing and disturbing as are the days in which we live, it is at once the burden and the joy of the Christian to attempt to trace the activity and purpose of God in the events of our time. For Christian faith does not regard God as manifesting Himself exclusively, or even primarily, in tranquil contemplation or in the wonder of nature, but in history where men have to do with each other and with Him. He who is the Head of the Church is also the Ruler of the nations and the Savior of mankind. The Christian and the church, therefore, must witness to His will and work in the life of society, striving always to keep under His judgment both our social institutions and our own life as Christians and as a church.

"The Shaking of the Nations"

The series of crises in the Middle East and the revolt in Hungary have reminded us of the insecurity of our world situation and the complexity of its problems. The situation of our world is indeed a "shaking of the nations" (Haggai 2:6f., Heb. 12:26f.). The explosive incidents which have taken place remind us of the importance of a number of principles to which the churches have from time to time borne witness—the evil heritage of colonialism; the fruits of poverty and frustration; the need for large scale economic development; the legitimacy and the danger of nationalism; the importance of relief and reconciliation; the necessity of international arrangements subordinated to justice, law, and community.

As discerning Christians, we must not minimize the errors in the behavior of our own nation. We should be responding more generously to the needs of other nations for economic development and be more consistent in our support of long-range programs. Similarly we may well regret our share in the failure to build up the economic and social organs of the United Nations to the point where they might have obviated harmful competition between the United States and the Soviet Union in offering military and economic aid in this area.

On the other hand, we may well be grateful for the readiness of the United Nations to take such steps as seemed possible in sending a police force to the Suez area and for the decision of our government to use the United Nations to bring an end to the armed intervention in Egypt and to negotiate a settlement. We recognize the wisdom in the decision of President Eisenhower, to the effect that we cannot apply one standard to the conduct of our friends and another to that of our rivals or enemies. At the same time we recognize there must be no self-righteousness about our attitude in this matter nor any blindness concerning the conditions which provoked hostilities against Egypt.

Rather than apportion blame in the situation, we need to encourage our government to support every measure which would make the United Nations really effective in dealing with the problems of this area.

We commend the following steps which are in substantial agreement with the steps suggested by the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches, contained in a statement on "A Proposal for Settlement of Certain Middle East Problems through the United Nations."

(1) Pending a genuine settlement, United Nations members agree to contribute whatever forces might be necessary to provide enforcement of all aspects of the armistice agreement. The entire cost of the United Nations force would be borne by all members according to their capacity to pay, as set forth in the formula for assessment of the regular United Nations budget.

(2) United Nations members would agree to provide substantial programs of assistance for economic development to alleviate critical economic and social problems in the Middle East, including Israel.

(3) The United Nations would assume complete charge of the 900,000 Arabs now in refugee camps, working out plans for fair compensation and arranging for their permanent resettlement.

(4) The United Nations would press for the renewal of negotiations, backed by all the resources of the Organization, leading to the acceptance of peace treaties between Israel and her Arab neighbors in place of armistice agreements. This would include all powers and forces necessary to insure stability in the area during the period of negotiations or in the event of apparent failure of negotiations.

The revolt in Hungary and evident resistance in other countries within the Soviet orbit, with the brutal repression of this revolt by the Soviet Union, call attention to other serious problems with which the UN is not as yet able to cope successfully. Through the United Nations the United States must continue (1) to press for the right of the United Nations to send observers into such troubled areas; (2) to seek to secure an agreement to stop the deportation of political prisoners to Siberia and other points outside of their own country; (3) to work for the resettlement, both in the United States and elsewhere, not only of refugees from this revolt but of the thousands of earlier escapees from totalitarian lands; and (4) to work for a political settlement that will relax the pressures upon the Middle European countries, restore personal freedoms, and permit the development of democratic institutions as these nations may desire them.

An important contribution to human freedom would be the liberalization of our present immigration laws in the ways urged by the Commission, the General Synod, and the National Council of Churches (cf. *Our Social Witness,* page 26f.). It is gratifying that amendments will be considered in the 85th Congress.

To meet the broader problem calls for both political imagination and flexibility. It means that the people of the United States must support such cooperative expressions of the international community as the regional agreements to which the United States is a party and specialized organizations for economic and social development of the United Nations, as well as the United Nations itself.

related to any aspect of the Commission's business. They are particularly interested in working with churches where social action committees desire guidance in getting programs started.

During the Fall and Winter of 1957 through Spring 1958 the Commission will be zoned to the following synods: Kansas City, Missouri Valley, Northeast Ohio, Northwest Ohio, Pittsburgh, Southeast Ohio, Southwest Ohio, Texas and West New York. It is our hope that in at least one area, possibly in Ohio, a program of field visits and institutes may be arranged in cooperation with the Congregational Christian staff and conference leaders.

Leadership Opportunities

The Commission continues to cooperate in such specialized seminars as the Churchmen's Washington Seminar, the United Nations-World Order Seminar, the Interdenominational Institute on Racial and Cultural Relations to be held at Chicago (August 5-12),and the Fisk Institute on Race Relations (July 1-12). It urges attendance at these not only by members of synodical committees on Christian Social Action but by other concerned pastors and lay people in our churches. The Commission is also happy to recommend the names of pastors interested in attending the Yale School of Alcohol Studies. As a result of the growing interest in Christian citizenship, a second Washington Seminar is being planned by the Council for Social Action on May 14-16. Members of the Evangelical and Reformed Church who were unable to attend the interdenominational seminar February 26 to March 1 are welcome at this second seminar. Information may be secured from either the Commission or the Council office.

In order to provide general training for leadership in the program of social action, the Commission is cooperating with the Council for Social Action in conducting three summer institutes on Christian Social Action: July 9-13, White Memorial Retreat Center, Mill Valley (near San Francisco), California; July 15-19, Lakeland College, Plymouth, Wisconsin; July 23-27, Massachusetts Congregational Christian Conference Grounds, Framingham, Massachusetts. At each institute members of the staffs of the two agencies and outstanding national leadership will participate. Room, board, and registration totals $25.

This program will include study of the basis of Christian Social Action, discusions on race relations, international affairs, Christian vocation, and social welfare, and workshop periods on methods and resources. So strongly does the Commisison value these institutes that, in lieu of conducting a national conference for synodical social action committee chairmen, it proposes to underwrite the expense of these chairmen in attending the nearest regional Institute. Synodical committee chairmen from the Pacific Northwest, California, and Rocky Mountain Synods will be invited to the West Coast Institute; chairmen from synods lying east of the Rocky Mountain Synod to and including West New York and Pittsburgh, to Lakeland College; and all those east of this group, to Framingham. The Commission strongly urges that synods, local congregations, women's groups, and individuals finance the attendance of as many others as possible. Information may be secured from the Commission office.

Special Projects

The Commisison continues its interest in Religion and Public Education. A conference for public school teachers and administrators in the state of Ohio was planned in cooperation with the Congregational Christians at Mansfield, Ohio, February 22 to 23. This type of inquiry continues to open some very interesting and significant developments.

A Conference on the Christian as a Citizen, originally projected by the Churchmen's Brotherhood and the Commission on Christian Social Action for 1958, will now become the joint report of these two agencies, the Council for Social Action, and the Laymen's Fellowship of the Congregational Christian Churches. The experience of lay interest and participation at the Tiffin Conference on the Christian and His Daily Work encourages us to hope for a similar response to this important meeting. Synods should make provision now for assisting their laymen to attend.

At the suggestion of the Committee on Town and Country Church consultations are also being arranged with that committee and the corresponding agencies for social action and rural church in the Congregational Christian denomination.

Cooperation With the Council For Social Action

Other sections of this report contain references to plans for closer cooperation with the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches. Several joint staff meetings have been held, and a most fruitful joint meeting of the agencies themselves was held in October 1956. As a result of these consultations there has been general agreement that, in accordance with actions taken by the respective denominational general bodies at Omaha and Lancaster, during the interim between the uniting General Synod in June 1957 and the adoption of a constitution for the United Church, the structure of the Commission on Christian Social Action and the Council for Social Action will necessarily be maintained. It is, however, anticipated that close cooperation and inter-meshing of the activities of the two agencies will make possible ever increasing delegation of responsibilities to the new Council for Christian Social Action to be set up by the General Synod of the United Church. It is anticipated that publications, seminars, institutes, conferences, and program resources will be unified. During the interim present staffs, budgets, and offices would be continued, but careful attention will be given to the cooperative development of a more effective program. A joint committee is studying such matters as publications and conferences in order that the entire United Church may be served more effectively.

Membership and Organization of the Commission

With the end of January, four valued members terminated their service on the Commission—Dr. Elmer J. F. Arndt, Dr. Willard A. Kratz, the Honorable John P. Saylor, and Mrs. William Thiedt. They have served the Church through the Commission most faithfully, Dr. Kratz for a period of 11 years and Dr. Arndt for approximately 22 years. Dr. Arndt's service first as Secretary and then since 1940 as Chairman of the Commission has placed his colleagues, the staff, and the church at large, very much in his debt. During the critical years of World War II he served in effect as an unpaid executive, administering the program for conscientious objectors and bearing many other burdens of leadership over and above his regular responsibilities. At the January 1957 meeting, as he prepared to turn over his office to his successor, the Commission requested him to present a paper on the subject of "Realism, Responsibility and Reconciliation" in order that his observations upon his experience with the Commission might be available to the members in the future.

The General Synod elected to the Commission for a term of six years the Reverend Theodore A. Braun, Henderson, Kentucky; the Reverend Clarence E. Josephson, D.D., Elmhurst, Illinois; Mr. C. B. Newell, Freemansburg, Pa.; and re-elected the Reverend Walter S. Press of Ann Arbor, Michigan. In accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws the Commission elected two additional persons — Mrs. William D. Powell, of Walkersville, Maryland, and the Reverend Alfred F. Schroeder, Belleville, Illinois.

The officers and members of the Commission for the triennium February 1, 1957 to January 31, 1960 are: the Reverend Henry C. Koch, D.D., Washington, D.C., Chairman; the Reverend Walter S. Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Harold C. Kropf, Orrville, Ohio, Secretary-Treasurer; the Reverend Messrs. Theodore A. Braun, Roy Eilers, Clarence E. Josephson, and Alfred F. Schroeder; Messrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Milton W. Meyers, C. B. Newell, and Robert D. Smink; and Mrs. William D. Powell.

The members and staff of the Commission would express their gratitude to the pastors and members of our congregations, to the General Synod, to the officers of the Church, for the many

ministered on a non-segregated basis and equal to those provided for other citizens.

Churches should take steps to inform the public of the need for the above objectives to precede termination programs.

In order to implement the above policy we suggest the following types of action:

1. We recommend support of a Senate bill similar to S.54 introduced by Senator Goldwater in the Eighty-fourth Congress. Such a bill would provide for technical training intended to prepare the Indian for life outside the reservation. Most of the Indian tribes are in need of such assistance.

2. We urge our people to support legislation similar to the substitute Senate bill (S.C. 85) introduced into the last Congress by Senator Murray. This substitute requires the federal government to use its economic resources, technical aid, and administrative procedures, in cooperation with the Indian tribes affected, to achieve adequate levels of well-being before terminating special services.

3. We urge our government to seek some just solution for the problems growing out of the conflict between the rights of the tribes and the interests of individual heirs in tribally owned property (the so-called "fractionated heirship" problem).

The Program of Advance in the Local Church

The shaking of the nations and the quest for fellowship in our land today give added urgency to the objective set forth in the Program of Advance adopted by the General Synod for the present triennium: **Every Congregation Engaged in Community Service and Social Action.**

This objective reminds us that an Advance for Christ means not only an advance in size but an advance in depth. It means not only more members, more missionaries, more mission churches but a certain quality of discipleship. It calls for the kind of commitment which expresses Christian faith in terms of community outreach, service to the needs of men, and a witness that challenges every force in society which denies community, justice, and brotherhood.

This means that the church in the local community needs to engage more vigorously than ever in such efforts as:

Study of the community, its people, its needs, its resources;

Cooperation with other churches, with social agencies, and with public officials to raise the moral level of the community and to meet the welfare needs of its people;

Development of programs that will assist children, youth, adults to find meaningful fellowship and strength to resist destructive forces in community life;

Organization, study, education, and action to relate our Christian faith to the problems of justice, brotherhood, citizenship, and peace.

The Commission is prepared to assist with publications, program suggestions, conferences, and staff consultation as congregations seek to take their part in this venture. "Christ Calls to Faith and Action Now!"

Publications and Audio-Visual Resources

During the past year the Commission on Christian Social Action has made available two new publications: **Christian Social Action at the General Synod**, a compendium of the resolutions adopted by the General Synod of 1956 together with the relevant portions of the Commission's report which throw light upon these problems; and **A Christian Approach to Race Relations**, the four page reprint of the above mentioned resolution with a Summons to Devout and Prayerful Study by President James E. Wagner. The former handbook is available for 20 cents each, and the latter statement is available in quantity for distribution to Evangelical and Reformed churches without cost.

For some time the Commission has attempted to meet the needs of local church groups and synodical committees for selective materials dealing with various subjects by offering packets on such subjects as Race Relations, Indian Americans, Christian Citizenship, and United Nations. A new packet, containing more extensive program suggestions and background information on **The Churches and Social Welfare** has been developed in cooperation with the Congregational Christian Churches. This packet, which like our other packets sells for $1, is the result of a number of coinciding interests. First came the National Conference on the Church and Social Welfare conducted by the National Council of Churches, with the recommendation that there be extensive follow-up in the denominations and in local churches. Then came the selection of 1956-1957 as a period of special emphasis on social welfare in the calendar of the denominations cooperating through the National Council. In our own denomination the General Council encouraged the Commission on Benevolent Institutions, the Board of National Missions, and the Commission on Christian Social Action, to take the initiative in planning our denominational "follow-up." These agencies in turn have cooperated with other agencies carrying responsibilities in this area, such as the Commission on Church and Ministry, the Commission on World Service, the Department of Adult Work of the Board of Christian Education and Publication. As a result of this planning, the Commission on Christian Social Action was encouraged to consult with the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches in developing this packet to aid congregations in studying and fulfilling their own role in the ministry to human well being.

For the first time the Commission has produced a motion picture. We are indebted to the Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids and to the late Alan Shilin for aid in the development of **A Train of Action**, a 28 minute sound film which has already sparked many constructive discussions on the possibilities for community outreach and the importance of a social action program in a local church. The film can be rented for $12 a showing from the Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids. By special arrangement it can be rented by churches, by groups of churches, or by synodical committees at the rate of $36 for a full week.

Field Program

However helpful and necesary are the printed and visual materials which are offered to individuals and churches, it has long been known that nothing takes the place of person-to-person communication. This is no less true whether the immediate aim be to inspire commitment, to impart information, or to secure action. For this reason the Commission places great emphasis and devotes a considerable portion of its resources to serving the church through the work of its staff in the field.

Field work assignments in the last year have taken the staff secretaries into churches in twenty-seven synods, in twenty-four states and the District of Columbia. Most of their appointments have been in synods to which the Commission was zoned during this period, and in such cases their itineraries were planned by the synodical committees on Christian Social Action.

Our field staff held many types of meetings, including synodical, regional, and congregational institutes on Christian social action. The subjects and issues discussed were varied, including citizenship responsibility, international affairs, United Nations, race relations, industrial relations, alcoholism, and delinquency.

It is our purpose in projecting visits to the churches to work in close cooperation with the synodical committees. We sincerely appreciate the friendly assistance which we have so often received from them. Planning conferences were held last spring with social action leaders in the zoned synods. These were most helpful, resulting in setting up meetings which are reaching a considerable number of key people in the congregations.

The synodical committees can do a great deal in the development of congregational interests in social action. They can be of special help in setting the stage for an effective program of field visitation. The services of the field secretaries are increasingly sought as leaders in the synods recognize the part they can take in providing and promoting opportunities for using them.

Both Mr. Schlegel and Mr. Marcus are happy to consult with synodical and congregational committees on programs

The Quest for Fellowship

Our own nation also is the scene of a conflict in which important values are at stake. The call to bring an end to racial discrimination and to work for a greater measure of brotherhood in our domestic life is a challenge which we dare not evade. We rejoice that in the past year there have been many evidences of brotherhood developing in the life of our church and our society. We commend those who have given reality to the Christian teaching of brotherhood and urge all our people to continue to give a Christian witness in this vital area of our nation's life.

The General Synod of 1956 recognized the importance of Christian action at this point when it adopted a statement on "A Christian Approach to Race Relations" and called for the abolition of racial barriers in our churches, for a common effort of fellowship across racial lines in our communities, for citizen action to bring about the desegregation of our public schools, and for other important measures of justice. The positive response given to this statement by representatives from all sections of the church at General Synod and subsequently by pastors and lay people in all parts of the country through their requests for copies of the statement indicates that our consciences and our wills are responding to this summons. More than 100,000 copies have already been distributed as of February 1. We strongly urge the continued use of this statement and its careful study in men's, women's, and youth groups, in church school classes, and in special study groups of concerned people.

We further commend for careful consideration the resolution adopted by General Synod regarding "Policy for Denominational Meetings" and "Integration in the Public Schools." These will be found on page 7 of *Christian Social Action at the General Synod.*

We also call attention to the statement, "Policy for Congregations of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Areas of Increasing Negro Population." This statement was approved and adopted by the Board of National Missions and the Commission on Christian Social Action, January 30, 1956, and is designed to give guidance to our churches which face population change. Copies are available free from the Commission on Christian Social Action or the Board of National Missions.

In North Carolina and Virginia the Commission on Christian Social Action is cooperating with the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the leaders of the respective conferences and synods in making available the services of two capable Christian women, Mrs. Pauline Sims Puryear and Miss Dorothy E. Hampton, who are prepared to counsel with individuals and groups who are concerned to establish better inter-group relations in their communities.

We are troubled, however, about one ominous development in certain states; namely, *the adoption of laws which are intended in effect to penalize any individual or organization resisting discrimination, working for interracial cooperation, or challenging accepted patterns of inequality.* Many of these are aimed frankly at such organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, but their provisions might as logically be directed against the Christian church or many other groups exercising their constitutional freedoms. Not only are such laws contrary to the trend of Supreme Court decisions on segregation and discrimination, but they are contrary to the reiterated and considered judgment of the Christian churches. Christians who are concerned for peaceful and orderly change should organize forthwith for their revision or repeal.

At the same time, we are conscious of other grave denials of justice. *Racial discrimination and segregation in housing* continues to blight many a city in all sections of the country, and constitutes a very special challenge to the church. For the members of our Protestant churches are active in writing the laws and in conducting the businesses which formally or informally work against the reasonable goal of a good home within the reach of all people without barring any.

Another matter of national concern is *our relationship to the Indian American.* We have a record of broken promises and badly kept treaties behind us. Yet we are today in danger of abandoning our responsibility too quickly and yielding to the clamor of those who wish to take away existing rights and protection from the Indian and secure his land for private exploitation.

For some time we have been concerned with the problems of the Indian Americans, yet we have had no definite policy statement regarding their struggles for justice. In view of the conditions affecting the welfare of Indian people the Commission has adopted the following resolution and commends it to other groups for study and adoption:

Resolution on Justice for the Indian American

Whereas the federal government has carried the principal responsibility for health, education, and welfare of the Indian Americans, insuring tax exemption on land, held in trust, which was reserved to the various tribes and individuals through treaties and solemn obligations; and

Whereas the announced policy of the federal government is to terminate its special services and relationships to the Indians and transfer these responsibilities to the several states and counties;

Be it Resolved that we urge our government to meet the following conditions before withdrawing its services:

1. **Indians should have full assurance of**
   a. **Opportunities for fundamental education equal to that afforded non-Indians.**
   b. **Adequate services that will promote an acceptable level of health and physical well-being.**
   c. **Provision of facilities for the development and use of the resources of the reservations, and solution for the fractionated land problem; facilities for the development of skills that will make possible normal adjustment; expansion of the federal government's program to assist voluntary relocation.**
2. **Negotiation between the federal government officials and the chosen representatives of the tribes affected in formulating all policies related to termination. Treaty provisions should be modified only with the consent of the group involved.**
3. **Negotiation should be carried on between the federal government and state and local units of government so that mutually acceptable plans are worked out which guarantee that services to Indians shall be ad-**

evidences of interest in the effective expression of Christian conviction in the whole range of our society and bespeak the increased cooperation of the synods and congregations in our joint efforts for our common Lord.

Recommendations For Synodical Action

In the light of the urgent need and opportunity of these days, the Commission, having carefully prepared and reviewed this report at its annual meeting, recommends:

1. That the synods encourage the President of the United States and the members of Congress to the fullest use and support of the United Nations in working for peace and justice in the Middle East, in Central Europe, and in the other troubled spots of the world.

2. That the synods encourage the congregations to study the organization, work, and effective functioning of the United Nations; such proposals for international reconciliation as are suggested by the Commission on Christian Social Action in the section of its report entitled, "The Shaking of the Nations," the more detailed statement, "A Proposal for Settlement of Certain Middle East Problems through the United Nations," prepared by the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and available from the Commission; and the statements on international relations adopted by the General Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

3. That the synods support and encourage the members of the congregations to support a liberalization of our immigration laws, so that not only the emergency needs of the victims of tyranny but the aspirations of other worthy individuals and families for admittance to this country may be satisfied, without indignity, discrimination, or needless hardship.

4. That synods in areas where such laws are adopted or proposed protest strongly any law punishing individuals or groups peacefully engaged in opposing racial discrimination or in defending persons unjustly deprived of their civil rights; and that the officers of such synods, in cooperation with the synodical committee on Christian social action, alerting the congregations as to the dangers of such legislation, encourage their members to work for its defeat or repeal.

5. That synods support the resolution on Justice for the Indian American, (See page 3f above) and urge the members of their congregations to study and support these proposals.

6. That synods urge our pastors and congregations to make their membership fully familiar with the actions of the General Synod in the important areas of international relations, citizenship, and race relations, through the study of the handbook, CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION AT THE GENERAL SYNOD and distribution of A CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO RACE RELATIONS.

7. That synods encourage all congregations to participate in the Program of Advance by developing more effective projects in community service and social action.

8. That synods encourage the congregations to use the resources made available by the Commission on Christian Social Action, such as the Program Packet on THE CHURCHES AND SOCIAL WELFARE and the motion picture, A TRAIN OF ACTION.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY C. KOCH,
Chairman

HUBER F. KLEMME,
Executive Secretary

HOOSIER COMMUNITY HAS SOCIAL ACTION WEEK-END

A great deal can happen to a community when several churches will combine for a program of Christian Social Action. The interest and enthusiasm generated by a weekend experience among several churches which face the same problems is sure to affect the thinking of many people of the community.

Six churches in Mt. Vernon, Indiana, are now carrying out a joint project of community study, and efforts will continue to be made by a joint social action committee to influence community improvement.

This is the result of a week-end conference on the theme, "The Church and Social Problems," sponsored by the interdenominational committee, with the Reverend F. Nelsen Schlegel, Field Secretary of the Commission on Christian Social Action, as resource leader. The joint committee, with members from the Christian, Evangelical United Brethren, Evangelical and Reformed, Episcopal, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, had done much preparation for the conference, using Mrs. Muriel Webb's booklet on "The Church and Social Welfare," as their guide.

Five meetings were held on January 27 and 28. At the opening session on Sunday afternoon, the sound motion picture, *A Train of Action,* was used to spark discussion concerning the place of a program of Christian social action in a local church. This theme was continued at an evening meeting, with good participation from members of the audience.

After the visiting leader had addressed a High School assembly, a Monday afternoon session was held with women of the community, who found much food for thought in the film strip, *What Happened to Hannah?* But the crowning part of the conference was a Monday evening panel discussion, with community leaders speaking of the social needs of Mt. Vernon and evaluating the present means of meeting them. Various aspects of the community's social problems were discussed by Dr. John Vogel, physician and city health officer; Mrs. Vogel; the Reverend Ralph E. Miller, Evangelical United Brethren pastor; Mrs. Eva Feder, county public health nurse; Mrs. Oscar Ott, county welfare worker; Francis Knowles, Circuit Court Judge; Aubrey A. Robinson, from the Chamber of Commerce; and Larry Wallace, High School student. Mr. Schlegel served as moderator.

Particular needs with which the interdenominational committee is concerned include a better-housing program; improved recreational facilities, with professional guidance, for young and old; better employment opportunities; and special problems affecting family life.

The Mt. Vernon committee, convinced that the churches have a great responsibility to influence all aspects of community life, intends to carry out an intensive follow-up of the conference theme. Chairman of the committee is Miss Catharine Howard, high school teacher and member of Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church, of which the Reverend August E. Binder is pastor.

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